

SECRETS OF PARENTING

What's the Risk?

Can't we just let children grow up on their own? As long as they don't bother me, they are good kids.

My children just watch TV and don't bother me. I hardly even know they are there.

What are you risking if you don't pay attention to the way you get along with your child?

What risks are you taking if you simply do not know enough about children's development? Can you unintentionally hurt your child's esteem, emotional development, or learning ability?

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Read the questions below and select the parenting response that you prefer. Then see if your choices match effective parenting practices.

- 1. If you are having a bad day and yell at your children for no reason,**
 - a. you should never apologize so your children don't view you as weak.
 - b. you believe children should learn to stay out of their parents' way.
 - c. you should apologize for yelling so your children will have a good model to follow.
- 2. Rules are made so children**
 - a. will learn how they are supposed to act and behave at home and in school.
 - b. will follow them without questioning them.
 - c. will learn who is boss.
- 3. Young children are self-centered, which means**
 - a. they need everything they see.
 - b. they cannot yet understand how you feel and think only of themselves.
 - c. they whine a lot.
- 4. Children require reminders of HOW to do things. If this is true, then**
 - a. parents should remind them only once.
 - b. children should listen the first time.
 - c. parents will have to remind them again and again.
- 5. Children learn most of what they know from**
 - a. television.
 - b. other children they play with.
 - c. adult role models.